



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELEC 2/21/2022

LRB Number	21-5929/1	Introduction Number	AB-1003	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> the resolution of complaints filed with the Elections Commission, submitting to the legislature copies of complaints filed with the Elections Commission, reports concerning possible violations of election laws, postelection audits of electronic voting systems, printing absentee ballot applications for recounts, and granting rule-making authority					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill contains numerous changes and additions to election law, several of which contain additional costs for state and local election officials and some which do not. The provisions that contain a fiscal component are outlined as part of this estimate, while ones that are not discussed should be assumed to either carry no fiscal impact or their costs can be absorbed into the existing WEC budget and functions.

#### Formal Complaint Resolution

This bill would require the members of the Commission to meet to consider all formal complaints filed with the agency within 60 days of receiving each complaint. The bill also states the Commission may by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members, approve extending that time by an additional 60-day period. We estimate that due to the volume of complaints the agency currently receives, compliance with the requirements of this bill would result in, at least monthly meetings of the Commission. This estimate would require eight additional meetings of the Commission, in addition to the currently required quarterly meetings.

The current per diem for Commissioners is \$115.00 per day, or \$690.00 per meeting for all six commissioners. For eight additional Commission meetings the estimated cost would be, at a minimum, an additional \$5,520 to the agency budget. Please note that these costs do not include Commissioner travel, lodging or meal reimbursements for any in-person meetings. Those costs would be in addition to the per diem costs cited above. In addition, these costs do not account for additional staff time to prepare meeting materials and participate in the additional meetings.

#### Printing Absentee Applications for a Recount

In preparation of this fiscal estimate, WEC staff reviewed costs associated with the printing of absentee ballot applications for a recount. The fiscal impact would fall upon the level of government required to conduct the recount. Per staff research and depending on whether an entity prints in-house or contracts with a private vendor due to volume, the cost to print a two-sided, single page form will typically range between \$0.10 and \$0.25. The costs incurred by the level of government will then depend of their specific printing costs and the number of active absentee requests they had on file for the contest subject to recount.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications